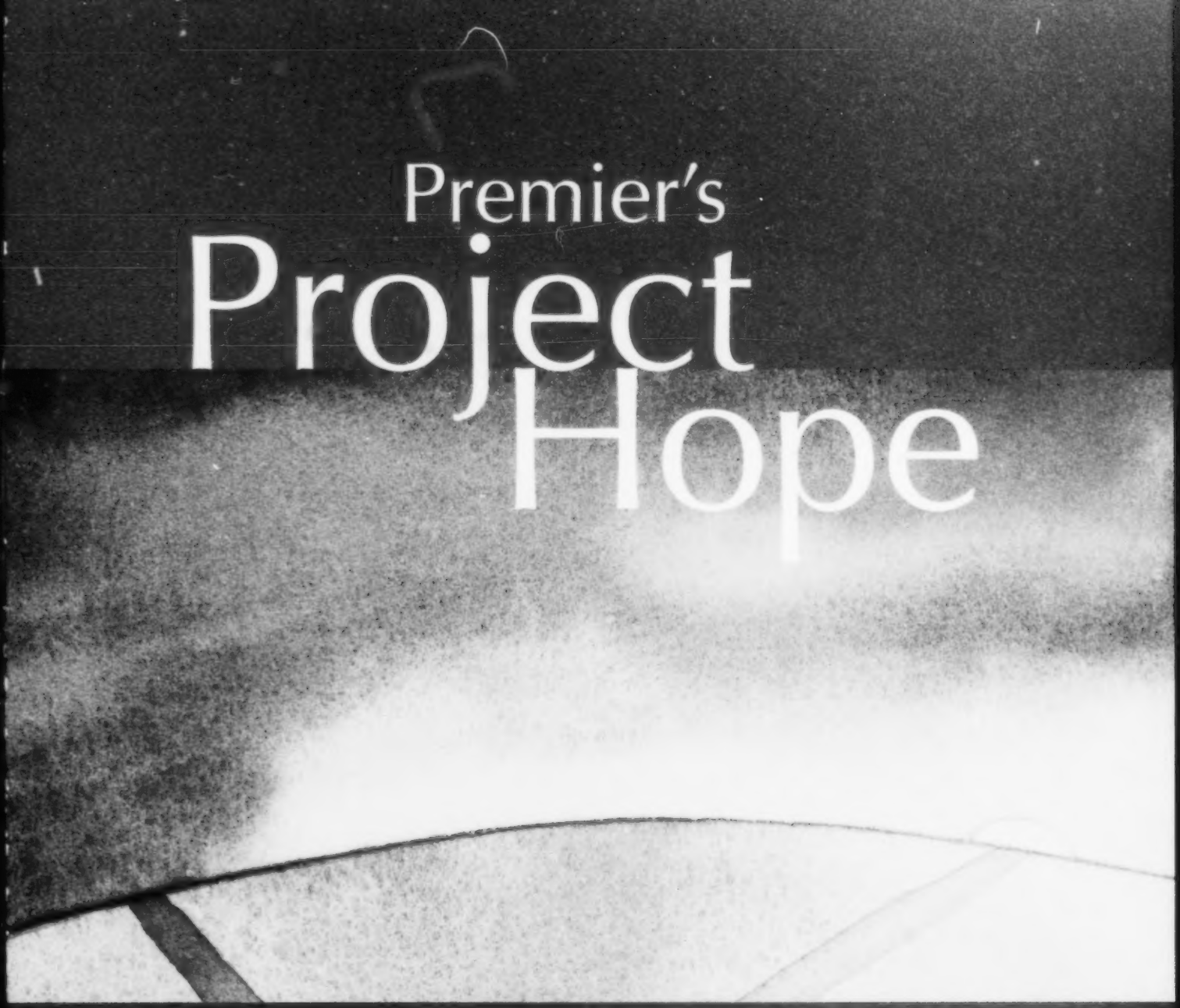

Premier's Project Hope

Saskatchewan's Action Plan for Substance Abuse

AUGUST 2005

PREMIER'S ProjectHope

Project Hope

My government and I have a vision for Saskatchewan's communities, families and young people. We envision a province defined not only by economic opportunity and vitality, but by an unbreakable social fabric; a network of communities and supports that give every individual the best possible opportunity to grow, to develop, to unlock their potential, to explore their dreams and to have hope for the future.

Tragically, thousands of lives are damaged in Saskatchewan every year due to substance abuse. Addictions of many varieties disrupt, sabotage and destroy the futures of too many individuals and their families. Whether the issue involves alcohol or addiction to other substances, it is time to take concerted action against substance abuse in our province.

My plan, Project Hope, enlists a multitude of communities, health care services, law enforcement agencies and educational programs in a concerted and sustained effort to prevent substance abuse and to lessen its harms to individuals and families. It's about treatment that is more accessible and flexible for those who need it; it's about coordinating our efforts and improving our knowledge so that communities can get the best tools available to fight substance abuse on their streets and in their homes; it's about making it more difficult to manufacture and sell drugs in our province; and finally, it's about educating and equipping our young people and changing society's attitudes so that substance abuse doesn't get a chance to take hold in their lives.

By building on the excellent foundation already laid by dedicated substance abuse professionals, counsellors and services, we will move over the next three years toward a Saskatchewan in which every child has the best possible chance of growing up free of addiction.

For a better future: Project Hope.

Lorne Calvert
Premier

- **We will introduce more flexible and accessible treatment supports for individuals and their families, by:**
  - **Providing respite support for families with substance-abusing youth;**
  - **Providing transition housing for youth and adults; and**
  - **Developing a family treatment centre that will offer inpatient care for people with children.**

When will this happen?

Family respite supports and supportive transition housing will be in place by the spring of 2006. Construction of the family treatment centre will begin in the spring of 2006, with the centre accepting clients by the fall of 2007.

How much will it cost?

These initiatives will represent an annual operating cost of $5.8 million and capital construction costs of $2 million.

Going after the source

- **We will make communities safer by:**
  - **Putting in place two additional officers to enforce *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*; and**
  - **Hiring four additional drug enforcement officers.**

When will this happen?

Additional drug enforcement officers will be hired soon and we expect additional SCAN officers to be in place this coming fall.

How much will it cost?

These initiatives will represent an annual cost of $700,000.

- **We will make it more difficult to manufacture and distribute illicit substances in Saskatchewan, by promoting the province's toll-free hotline for reporting drug houses.**

When will this happen?

The campaign to inform Saskatchewan residents about this service will be launched this coming fall.

How much will it cost?

This initiative will represent a cost of $50,000 in each of the next two years.

- **We will continue to urge the federal government to strengthen penalties for drug possession.**

- **We will build on MethWatch, a coalition of retail and wholesale businesses, to restrict the supply of ingredients used in the manufacture of crystal methamphetamine.**

Working together, with the best tools available

- **We will create and implement a Community Development Framework, which will bring communities together in a cohesive and shared approach to battling substance abuse issues.**

- **We will create a treatment database that will provide substance abuse programs and services with up-to-date centralized information about treatment options.**

- **We will empower communities to address substance abuse on the streets and in their homes, by providing community toolkits, a web-based inventory of speakers and experts on substance abuse, and centralized prevention and education resources.**

- **We will introduce a central accreditation process for substance abuse programs and services so that clients and their families can be assured of quality and trustworthy expertise.**

- **We will improve our knowledge about substance abuse by conducting a provincial survey regarding alcohol and drug abuse and by creating a new research chair at the University of Saskatchewan and improving evaluation of substance abuse programs and data collection.**

When will this happen?

The provincial alcohol and drug survey will be conducted early in 2006. An accreditation process will be introduced in the spring of 2006. Community resource materials and the provincial treatment database will be made available this coming fall. The research chair at the University of Saskatchewan will be in place by this October.

How much will it cost?

These initiatives are expected to cost $723,000.

Accessible, flexible, effective

- **We will expand our ability to treat addiction, particularly among our youth, by:**
  - **Developing a 12-bed youth stabilization unit in Saskatoon;**
  - **Developing a 15-bed inpatient residential youth treatment facility in Prince Albert in partnership with First Nations and reviewing opportunities for a similar project in the southern portion of the province;**
  - **Developing 12 brief detox beds in Regina;**
  - **Hiring four additional addictions counsellors in the North;**
  - **Developing a mobile treatment service for youth in northern communities;**
  - **Providing operating funding for brief detox services in Saskatoon;**
  - **Doubling the social detox capacity in Prince Albert, from 6 beds to 12;**
  - **Developing outreach centres in Saskatoon and Prince Albert and expanding existing outreach services in North Battleford and Regina;**
  - **Making substance abuse treatment available to individuals who are in custody as well as those who are appearing before a new drug treatment court; and**
  - **Expanding methadone services in Prince Albert and Saskatoon and expanding generally needle exchange programming.**

When will this happen?

Some of these service enhancements will be in place by the fall of this year; we expect that all new treatment centres and services will be operational by the spring of 2008. The drug treatment court will be established in early 2006 and programming for offenders in custody will be operational by spring of 2006.

How much will it cost?

Capital construction costs for new and expanded treatment centres are expected to be $3.8 million.
The annual operational cost of expanded treatment capacity is expected to be $5.7 million.

- **We will redevelop our provincial treatment model so that it reflects the best known practices, by:**
  - **Providing training to substance abuse counsellors and other addictions and mental health workers in Saskatchewan's health regions;**
  - **Hiring program consultants to introduce, develop and implement with our partners the many new initiatives in this new substance abuse model; and**
  - **Hosting an annual clinical conference for the education and inspiration of those working in the addictions field in Saskatchewan.**

When will this happen?

Hiring of new program consultants will begin immediately. The first clinical conference will be conducted in January of 2006. Training for substance abuse counsellors will begin this coming fall.

How much will it cost?

Government will invest approximately $400,000 per year in these initiatives.

Prevention:
Education and a change in attitude

- **We will create a new Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Education Directorate within Saskatchewan Health, a dedicated team whose mandate will be to work with regional health authorities, schools and other agencies to enhance prevention and education efforts. This new directorate's work will include:**
  - **Prevention and information resources including a province-wide media campaign, educating youth and all Saskatchewan residents about substance abuse;**
  - **Education and prevention staff and resources for both regional health authorities and the province-at-large; and**
  - **Providing schools with resource officers who can directly help young people at risk of involvement with substance abuse.**

When will this happen?

The Alcohol and Drug Prevention and Education Directorate will be in place by this coming fall.

How much will it cost?

The directorate's work will represent an annual investment of $1.9 million.

- **We will begin work to change attitudes about the use and abuse of alcohol in our province, by:**
  - **Reviewing Saskatchewan Liquor & Gaming Authority alcohol policies in order to restrict access to alcohol by minors; and**
  - **Reviewing minimum pricing standards and potential surcharges on harmful products.**

Additional copies of this report are available from
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1-800-667-7766
or view on the Government of Saskatchewan website at
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